1987-1988

Health Disciplines Board

Annual Report

Alberta
HEALTH DISCIPLINES
BOARD

90-04445/

Alberta
PROFESSIONS AND
OCCUPATIONS BUREAU

5th Floor, Kensington Place, 10011 - 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3S8 403/427 2655

November 6, 1989

Honourable R.S. (Dick) Fowler, Q.C.
Minister Responsible for
Professions and Occupations

Sir:

I am pleased to present the 1987 - 1988 Health Disciplines Board Annual Report. I trust you will find the Report useful and informative.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Mirosh

Dianne Mirosh, Chairman
Council on Professions
and Occupations

Alberta
PROFESSIONS AND
OCCUPATIONS BUREAU

5th Floor, Kensington Place, 10011 - 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3S8 403/427-2655

November 6, 1989

Mrs. Dianne Mirosh
Chairman
Council on Professions and Occupations

Madam:

I have the honour to present the 1987 - 1988 Health Disciplines Board Annual Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Charlton
Registrar
Health Disciplines Board

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PART I: THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

HEALTH DISCIPLINES ACT

Objectives

The **Health Disciplines Act** provides a mechanism for:

- determining whether it is in the public interest to regulate certain health disciplines that are not regulated under other legislation; and
- protecting the public by regulating practitioners of health disciplines whose services may, if improperly performed, involve risk of harm.

The Act reserves for registered practitioners the right to use protected titles and abbreviations and specifies the services they may perform.

Historical Development

The Health Disciplines Act was first introduced into the Legislature by the Government of Alberta on June 28, 1979, as the **Health Occupations Act.** After revisions, the **Health Occupations Act** was passed on November 27, 1980 and proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on December 6, 1981.

The Health Occupations Act allowed for the regulation of various health disciplines and was intended to avoid the proliferation of separate professional Acts with varying standards.

The 1984 **Health Occupations Amendment Act** introduced three major changes to the **Health Occupations Act:**

- the new Act was given the title of the **Health Disciplines Act** and the word "occupation" was replaced by the word "discipline" throughout
- decision making privileges were extended. The authority of the Board to develop regulations respecting requirements for registration, re-registration, temporary registration and continuing education were expanded. Professional associations were allowed to carry out some of the functions of the health discipline committees and some of the functions of the Registrar of the Health Disciplines Board

Further significant changes were introduced in 1988 when the **Health Disciplines Amendment Act** was proclaimed. As a result of these changes:

- the Health Disciplines Board may now advise the Minister on the establishment of advisory committees
- health discipline associations are permitted to establish separate registers for non-practising members. The requirements for registration of non-practising members are to be specified in the by-laws of the health discipline association
- preliminary investigations are permitted prior to referral of a complaint to the appropriate committee. If a registered member of a designated health discipline admits to unbecoming conduct or practising with a lack of skill or judgment, the committee is now able to act more expeditiously. Designated health disciplines are responsible for keeping a formal record of all disciplinary matters
- copies of reports respecting disciplinary matters are to be filed with the Registrar of Health Disciplines
- the place of business of self-employed practitioners may be inspected by the Registrar of the Health Disciplines Board to ascertain whether the regulations relating to that discipline are being complied with. If, as a result of the inspection there are serious concerns, remedial action may be recommended or a complaint to the appropriate committee may be initiated

HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

The Health Disciplines Board was established in January, 1982 as a result of the proclamation of the **Health Occupations (Disciplines) Act.** The Board is an advisory body of Government whose function is to provide expertise and guidance in the regulation of health disciplines under the Act.

This public body consists of nine members: two from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, one from the Alberta Dental Association and six from the general public. Representatives from the Departments of Health, Family and Social Services and Advanced Education are entitled to attend meetings of the Board as observers.

The Health Disciplines Board has the following major responsibilities:

- to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the designation of health disciplines under the Act
- to develop and recommend regulations which establish a scope of practice, educational qualifications, approved training programs, examinations, registration practices, reserved titles and standards of conduct for each of the designated health disciplines
- to act as an appeal body for decisions of the health discipline committees with respect to matters of registration, conduct and competency
- to approve educational programs and registration examinations

Committees and Associations

Health disciplines which have been designated under the **Health Disciplines Act** are governed by a health discipline committee or a health discipline association. These bodies register practitioners, handle disciplinary matters and assist the Board in establishing or amending regulations. Health Discipline Committees are made up of members, appointed by the Minister, the majority of whom are practitioners of the health discipline. Health discipline associations are the professional bodies of the discipline with officers elected in accordance with the by-laws of that body.

Two further types of committee may be established. Regulation Development Advisory Committees assist the Board in the development of regulations for designated health disciplines. Expert Advisory Committees are established for specific purposes such as development of examinations.

Figure 1 shows the various committees and associations in operation or in the process of being established during 1988.

Administration

The Health Disciplines Board and its committees are assisted in their work by the Registrar of the Health Disciplines Board and other professional staff from the Alberta Professions and Occupations Bureau.

The Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations is responsible for administration of the **Health Disciplines Act.**

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Health Disciplines Board during 1988 were:

Dr. J. Noakes, Chairman
Mr. A. Koch, Deputy Chairman
Mr. A. Maiani
Dr. J. Young
Mr. S. Porter
Mrs. J. Rudd
Mrs. D. Latham
Dr. R. Sherbaniuk
Mr. N. Kashuba

FIGURE 1

HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1988

Advisory Committees

Regulation Development Advisory Committees

Mental Deficiency Nurses Regulation Advisory Committee

Expert Advisory Committees

Emergency Medical Technician -Ambulance Examination Advisory Committee

**Registered Nursing Assistant Educational Standards Advisory Committee

Health Discipline Committees

Respiratory Therapy Committee

Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technician Committee

Acupuncture Committee

*Emergency Medical Technician Committee

**Electroneurophysiological Technologist Committee

Health Discipline Associations

***Alberta Prehospital Professions Association

Alberta Association of Medical Radiation Technologists

Alberta Hearing Aid Practitioners Association

Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta

Professional Council of Registered Nursing Assistants

*Abolished December 31, 1988
**In the Process of Development
***Established as of January 1, 1989

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

As indicated in Figure 2, the Health Disciplines Board has the following major responsibilities:

Investigations

One of the primary functions of the Health Disciplines Board is to investigate and evaluate health disciplines to determine whether they should be regulated under the **Health Disciplines Act.** The Board conducts an investigation if a request has been made by or on behalf of an association of persons engaged in that health discipline, or if directed by the Minister.

In conducting these investigations, information is collected from associations concerned with the health discipline, employers, government departments and agencies, educational institutions and members of the public. Questionnaires are distributed as a means of soliciting data. Those who submit written briefs are also invited to make oral presentations to the Board.

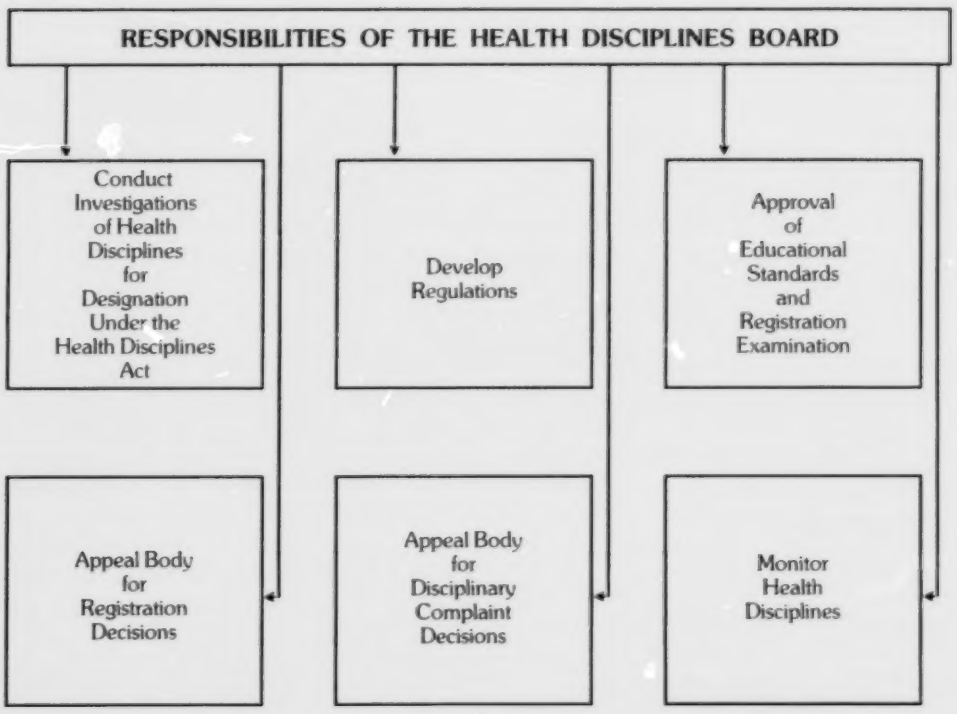
The Board seeks information on the following:

- the tasks practitioners perform and the complexity of those tasks
- the degree of direction or supervision received by practitioners of the discipline
- approved educational programs for the health discipline both in and outside of Alberta

The Board must then evaluate the information collected with respect to:

- the degree of direct and personal impact that practitioners may have on the health of those whom they care for or treat
- desirable qualifications with respect to education, training, specific knowledge or technical proficiency
- the minimum standards of competency required of practitioners
- the health services that practitioners may provide within the scope of the

FIGURE 2


RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD
Conduct Investigations of Health Disciplines for Designation Under the Health Disciplines Act
Develop Regulations
Approval of Educational Standards and Registration Examination
Appeal Body for Registration Decisions
Appeal Body for Disciplinary Complaint Decisions
Monitor Health Disciplines

health discipline and any limitations or conditions applicable to the provision of those services

- the level of independence of practice that is necessary or desirable for practitioners of the health discipline

Upon completion of its study, the Board determines whether the potential for harm and the degree of risk to the public associated with the practice of that health discipline warrants regulation under the **Health Disciplines Act.**

The Board then submits a full report and recommendation as to whether designation is in the public interest to the Minister. If the Minister decides that the discipline should be designated, legislation is enacted adding the discipline to the schedule that accompanies the **Health Disciplines Act.**

The Board must include in its report a recommendation as to whether the discipline should be governed by a health discipline committee or a health discipline association.

Regulations

Once a health discipline has been accepted for designation, the Minister may appoint an advisory committee to develop Regulations. The advisory committee reports to the Health Disciplines Board. Regulations are made concerning the following:

- scope of practice, including services that a health discipline may provide and conditions and limitations upon those services
- qualifications and conditions of eligibility for practitioners applying for registration
- renewal and temporary registration criteria
- fees payable for registration, examination and renewal of registration
- information to be contained in the register for each discipline
- the names, titles, descriptions, abbreviations and initials that a registered practitioner may use to indicate that he/she is a member of a designated health discipline
- requirements related to training programs, refresher courses and continuing education courses and registration examinations
- standards of conduct and competency
- establishment of a registration committee and a conduct and competency committee for each health discipline association

Since practitioners knowledgeable in the health discipline are members of the advisory committee, that body has a major role in developing regulations. It is responsible for assisting the Board in drafting regulations and circulating them as widely as possible to various stakeholders for their comments. After consultation and revisions are complete, a draft Regulation is presented to the Board and is subsequently recommended to the Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations for his consideration and decision. Regulations generally come into effect on a date following proclamation. When the Regulation comes into effect, the Minister, on the recommendation of the Health Disciplines Board, may establish through Ministerial Order either a health discipline committee or a health discipline professional association.

Registration

The Health Disciplines Board acts as an appeal body for decisions of health discipline committees and health discipline associations with respect to registration.

Education and Exams

The committee or association that governs a designated health discipline advises the Health Disciplines Board with respect to the qualifications and training desirable for individuals to practise. The Board is responsible for approving the following educational standards:

- training programs
- refresher programs
- registration examinations

Complaints and Appeals

The **Health Disciplines Act** establishes procedures which enable members of the public to lodge a complaint against any registered practitioner. Complaints may be made with respect to conduct, skills or judgement used in practice, fitness to practise, or provision of unauthorized services.

The Health Disciplines Board acts as an appeal body for disciplinary decisions made by health discipline committees or associations. In addition, if the committee or association has not dealt with the complaint appeal within sixty days, the Board will hold a hearing.

Monitoring

Designated health disciplines are monitored on an ongoing basis by way of reports from health discipline committees and associations and reports from the Registrar. If the Board is not satisfied with the performance of a health discipline committee or association it may direct the Registrar of Health Disciplines to take whatever remedial action is appropriate. Ultimately, the Board, has the statutory responsibility to recommend to the Minister that he rescind the order establishing that committee or association and replace it with a more appropriate governing body.

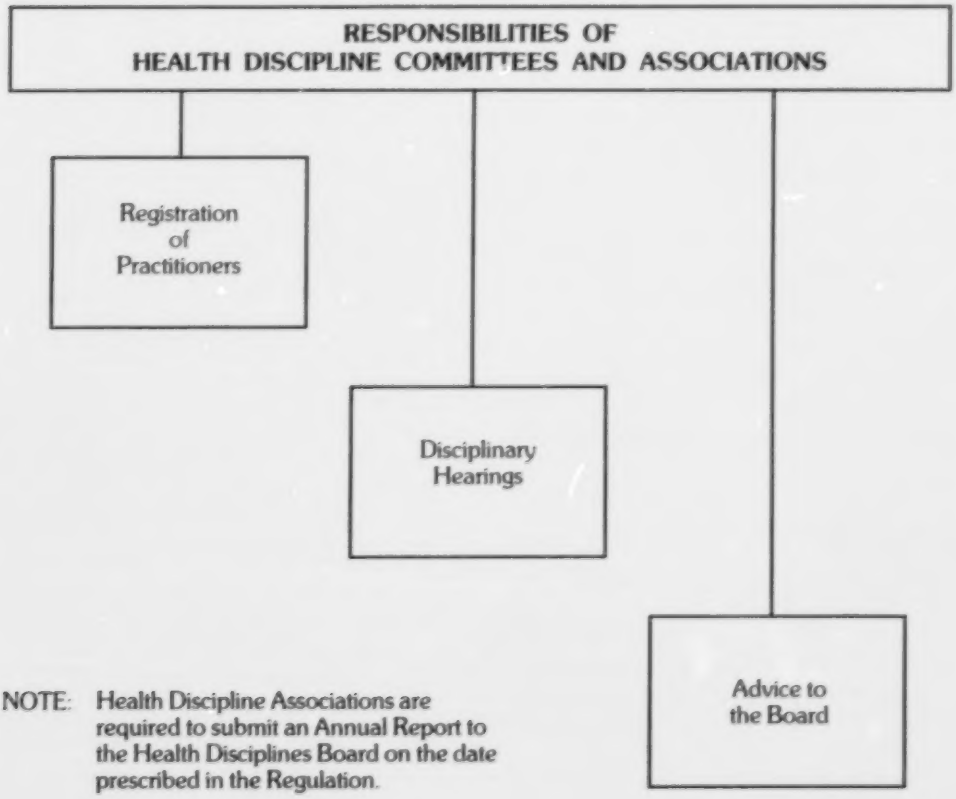
RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Health disciplines that have been designated under the **Health Disciplines Act** are governed by either a health discipline committee or a health discipline (professional) association.

Committees are made up of three to nine members appointed by the Minister, the majority of whom are practitioners of the particular health discipline being governed. The remaining members are knowledgeable with respect to the practice of the discipline.

An association of practitioners of a health discipline may assume the responsibility of governing the discipline if the Board makes

FIGURE 3



NOTE: Health Discipline Associations are required to submit an Annual Report to the Health Disciplines Board on the date prescribed in the Regulation.

such a recommendation and it is approved by the Minister. Recommendations are based on such factors as the number of members in the association, the length of time the association has existed and its financial position. A health discipline association appoints a registrar who has similar powers and duties to the Registrar of the Health Disciplines Board. The association also establishes a registration committee and a conduct and competency committee which have the same powers and duties as a health discipline committee.

Committees and associations register practitioners, handle disciplinary matters and assist the Board in establishing and amending regulations for the discipline.

Registration

The registration of practitioners designated under the **Health Disciplines Act** is initiated when the Regulation for the health discipline comes into force. Individuals are required to submit an application detailing their educational qualifications, examination results, certification, professional registration, employment record and character references. For the qualifying applicants, the practitioner's name, place of employment, date of registration and registration number are recorded in a register for that discipline. These registers are open to the public during regular office hours. Each registered practitioner is issued a card with his/her name, address, area of practice and registration expiry date. These cards provide proof of registration for employers, patients and others.

Registrations must be renewed annually. Renewals are processed upon submission of the prescribed form and fee, provided that the applicant has fulfilled the requirements for renewal of registration. These conditions may include a minimum period of employment in the health discipline, meeting continuing education requirements and being of good professional standing. Applicants who do not meet the necessary requirements are referred to the health discipline committee or association for review and recommendation. The decision of a health discipline committee or association may be appealed to the Health Disciplines Board and further to the Court of Queen's Bench.

Conduct and Competency

Under the **Health Disciplines Act** a complaint can be made against a registered member of a designated health discipline with respect to:

- competence or fitness to practice
- conduct
- health services provided
- lack of skill or judgement

Complaints must be made in writing and to the appropriate committee or association. All information pertaining to the patient or client is kept confidential. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Registrar (or designate) conducts a preliminary investigation and produces a written report. This report is reviewed by the Conduct and Competency Committee of the health discipline association or health discipline committee and a decision is made with respect to whether the complaint is trivial or vexatious. If a complaint is determined not to be trivial or vexatious, a hearing is held.

If, as a result of a hearing, a complaint is upheld, the registered practitioner may be reprimanded, fined, suspended, struck from the register, or required to take specified training. The complainant or the practitioner may appeal decisions of the committee or association to the Health Disciplines Board. The Board's decision may in turn, be appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench.

Amendments to Regulations

When amendments to the Regulation for a designated health discipline are required, a draft of the proposed changes is reviewed by the Health Disciplines Board. Governing committees or associations are responsible for providing advice to and preparing documentation for the Board.

A draft Amendment Regulation is then circulated to all interested stakeholder groups to obtain comments. Following consideration of stakeholder group comments, a revised draft is prepared with an accompanying report outlining the process taken and pertinent issues. The Regulation and documentation are then presented to the Health Disciplines Board. When satisfied, the Health Disciplines Board recommends the Regulation to the Minister for consideration. It is the responsibility of the committee or association to implement the changes to the Regulation when it comes into effect.

Annual Status Reports from Health Discipline Associations

An annual report is submitted to the Registrar of the Health Disciplines Board by those professional associations that govern designated health disciplines. The dates of submission vary and are specified in the regulations for each discipline. The annual report reflects the general status of the discipline, highlighting any major developmental initiatives or significant problems. Additionally, the following operational activities are addressed:

- registration information
- number of complaint hearings held and decisions
- practice review information
- by-law changes
- regulation changes
- educational programs and examination changes
- financial status of the association

PART II: HEALTH DISCIPLINES STATUS REPORT

Since 1982, thirty-three applications for designation under the Act have been received by the Health Disciplines Board. Two applications were withdrawn and the Alberta Association of Registered Dental Technicians has applied at two different times for designation. Upon completion of investigations, eight health disciplines were not designated under the Act. As shown in Figure 4, the remaining applications for designation are at various stages of completion and ongoing administration is required for the six health disciplines that were designated under the Act as of December 31, 1988.

HEALTH DISCIPLINES UNDER EVALUATION FOR DESIGNATION

As of December 31, 1988 investigations were in progress for eleven health disciplines which had applied for designation under the Act:

- Homeopathic Practitioners
- Naturopathic Practitioners
- Health Record Administrators/ Technicians
- Athletic Therapists
- Chiropodists
- Recreational Therapists
- Orthotists and Prosthetists
- Podiatrists
- Cytotechnologists
- Dental Technicians
- Medical Laboratory Technologists

HEALTH DISCIPLINES TO BE DESIGNATED

Investigations have been completed for the following health disciplines and regulations for each discipline are being developed.

Acupuncture

In November of 1983, the discipline of Acupuncture was designated under the **Health Occupations Act.** In July, 1984 a committee was established to develop a Regulation for the discipline. Once a suitable registration examination has been developed, the Regulation will come into force.

Mental Deficiency Nurses

In the 1970s, educational institutions in Alberta ceased to offer training for the occupation of Mental Deficiency Nurse. These practitioners were regulated under the **Psychiatric Nurses Training Act** until 1987, when the Act was repealed.

In January, 1985 the Alberta Mental Deficiency Nurses Association applied to the Health Disciplines Board for designation under the Act. After completing its investigation in 1987, the Board recommended designation. In March, 1988 a committee was established and a draft Regulation was produced. The Regulation is currently being circulated to organizations with an interest in the discipline for their comments.

Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians

In November of 1984 the discipline of Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technician was designated under the Act. A committee was established in August, 1985 and a draft Regulation was presented to the Board in June, 1986. The Regulation was approved by the Government in December, 1988, and the discipline will be governed by the Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technician Committee.

Electroneurophysiological Technologists

A request for designation of Electroneurophysiological Technologists was received in November, 1983 and the evaluation began in 1984. Following an initial investigation, the Board determined that interest groups should be contacted to reconsider the practitioners' title and scope of practice. Upon completing the investigation in May, 1985 the Board recommended designation and a change in discipline title, from Electroencephalograph Technologist to Electroneurophysiological Technologist. An advisory committee is in the process of being established to develop a Regulation for this discipline.

FIGURE 4

STATUS OF HEALTH DISCIPLINES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1988

Investigations In Process	Investigations Complete and Regulations Being Developed	Regulations Approved - Ongoing Governance	Ivestigations Completed - Not Designated
Homeopathic Practitioners	Acupuncturists	Psychiatric Nurses	Dental Technicians
Naturopathic Practitioners	Mental Deficiency Nurses	Hearing Aid Practitioners	Domiciliary Midwives
Health Record Administrators/Technicians	Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians	Emergency Medical Technicians	Electrologists
Athletic Therapists	Electroneurophysiological Technologists	Medical Radiation Technologists	Herbalists
Chiropodists		Respiratory Therapists	Orthomolecular Consultants
Recreational Therapists		Registered Nursing Assistants	Orthopedic Technologists
Orthotists & Prosthetists			Remedial Gymnasts
Podiatrists			Massage Therapists
Medical Lab. Technologists			
Cytotechnologists			
Dental Technicians			

NOTE: Excludes applications that have been withdrawn
Dental Technicians have applied for designation at two different times

HEALTH DISCIPLINES CURRENTLY REGULATED

Registration of Practitioners

As of December 31, 1988, the Health Disciplines Board was responsible for the regulation of 11,557 practitioners in six designated health disciplines. Figure 5 shows the number of practitioners in each of the designated disciplines.

Hearings and Appeals

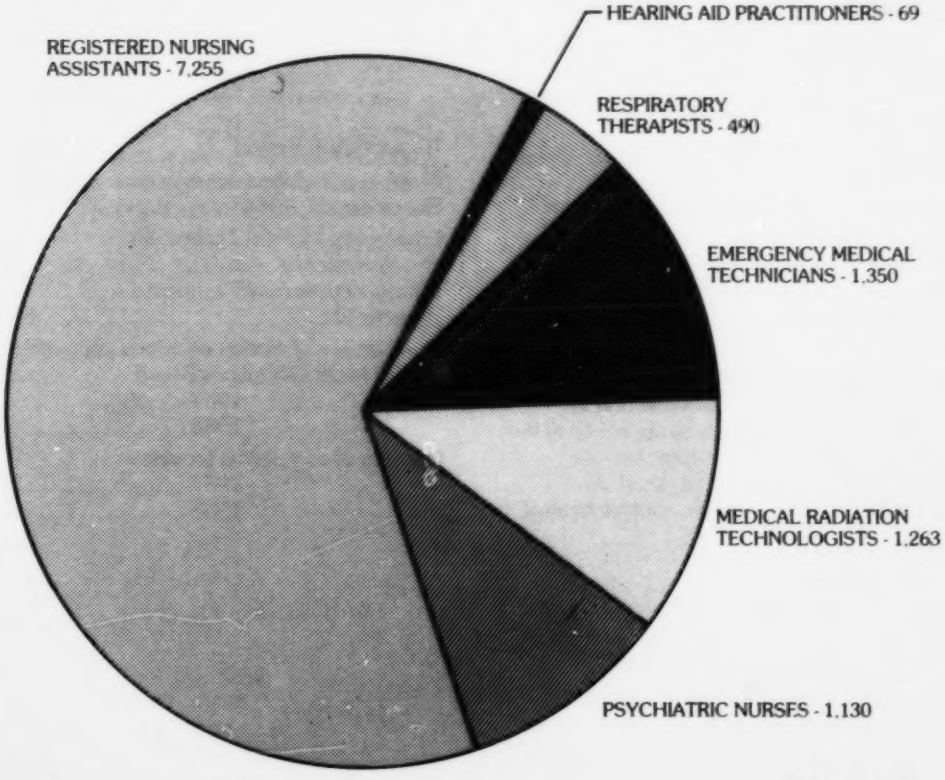
During the 1987 and 1988 calendar years, a total of seventeen disciplinary complaint hearings and three registration appeals were held.

Regulated Disciplines

After the Regulation for a health discipline has been approved, the health discipline association or the appointed health discipline committee is responsible for governance of the health discipline. At present, the following health disciplines are regulated under the Act:

FIGURE 5

THE NUMBER OF PRACTITIONERS REGISTERED UNDER THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES ACT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1988.


HEARING AID PRACTITIONERS - 69
REGISTERED NURSING ASSISTANTS - 7,255
RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS - 490
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS - 1,350
MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS - 1,263
PSYCHIATRIC NURSES - 1,130
TOTAL - 11,557

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Emergency Medical Technicians are pre-hospital care workers trained to provide life support services. The Emergency Medical Technician - Ambulance (E.M.T.-A.) provides basic life support services, while the Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic (E.M.T.-P.) provides advanced life support services, both under the medical control of a physician.

Regulation

The designation of the discipline of E.M.T.-P. received royal assent in June, 1983 and a committee was established in January, 1984. Following this, the Health Disciplines Board conducted an investigation of the discipline of E.M.T.-A. and recommended designation. As a result the original designation was amended and in December, 1984, the existing committee was expanded to include E.M.T.-A practitioners. The Regulation for E.M.T.'s came into force on December 31, 1985. On January 1, 1989 the Alberta Prehospital Professions Association of Alberta assumed responsibility for governance of the discipline as recommended by the Health Disciplines Board.

Training Programs and Examinations

The Health Disciplines Board has approved ten training programs for E.M.T.-A.'s. Two programs are offered in Alberta, while the remainder are in other provinces or in the United States.

Three programs have been approved for E.M.T.-P.'s; two in Alberta and one in British Columbia. Programs approved at the paramedic level are also approved for registration at the E.M.T.-A. level. As required in the Regulation, applicants must complete a registration examination approved by the Health Disciplines Board. For E.M.T.-P.'s the approved examination is provided by the Registered Emergency Paramedic Association of Alberta. For EMT -A's the approved examination is the Provincial Registration Examination for Emergency Medical Technicians - Ambulance which was developed by a committee of practitioners and educators in consultation with the Centre for Studies in Medical Education at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine. The examination was first administered in January of 1988. Prior to January 1, 1988 the approved examination for EMT-A's was the program end examination for the approved training programs offered in Alberta.

Registered practitioners are entitled to use the following titles and initials:

Emergency Medical Technician - E.M.T.
Emergency Medical Technician - Ambulance - E.M.T.-A
Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic - E.M.T.-P

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1988	1,350
Emergency Medical Technician - Ambulance	944
Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic	406
Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board	
1987	2
1988	-
Number of complaints processed	
1987	1
1988	5

MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS

Medical Radiation Technologists, under the direction of a physician, use a variety of x-ray equipment and radioactive materials to provide diagnostic and therapeutic services to patients.

Regulation

The designation of the discipline of Medical Radiation Technology received royal assent in June, 1983 and a committee was established in January, 1984. The Regulation for the health discipline came into effect on January 31, 1986. This Regulation provides for the registration of Radiographic Technologists, Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Oncology Technologists. A health discipline committee governed the discipline until February 1, 1988. At that time, the Alberta Association of Medical Radiation Technologists assumed the regulatory responsibility as a health discipline association.

Training Programs and Examinations

The Health Disciplines Board has approved all the programs currently offered in Canada that have been accredited by the Canadian Medical Association/Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists for all three types of Medical Radiation Technologists. In all three areas of practice, the approved registration examinations are the National Examinations of the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists.

Registered practitioners are entitled to use the following titles and initials:

Medical Radiation Technologist	
Radiographic Technologist	- R.T.R.
Radiation Oncology Technologist	- R.T.T.
Radiation Therapy Technologist	- R.T.T.
Nuclear Medicine Technologist	- R.T.N.M.

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1988	1,263
Registered Radiographic Technologists	1,105
Registered Nuclear Medicine Technologists	94
Registered Oncology Technologists	64
Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board	
1987	-
1988	-
Number of complaints processed	
1987	-
1988	-

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

Respiratory Therapists, under the direction of a physician, plan and implement therapeutic and diagnostic procedures for patients with heart and lung disorders. Therapeutic services include cardiopulmonary resuscitation, mechanical ventilatory support and therapeutic gas administration. Examples of diagnostic services are cardiopulmonary testing and monitoring and arterial blood gas services.

Regulation

The designation of the discipline of Respiratory Technologist received royal assent in June of 1983 and the Committee was established in December, 1983. The Regulation came into force on March 31, 1986. In 1986, the Schedule to the **Health Disciplines Act** was amended to change the title of this discipline from Respiratory Technologist to Respiratory Therapist. In December of 1987 the Regulation was also amended to reflect this change. Under the Regulation, both titles, Registered Respiratory Therapist and Registered Respiratory Technologist are reserved for registered practitioners. The Alberta Society of Respiratory Therapists has applied to assume regulating responsibility as a health discipline association in 1989.

Training Programs and Examinations

The Health Disciplines Board has approved the two programs offered in Alberta as well as all other Canadian respiratory therapy programs that have been accredited by the Canadian Medical Association/Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists. In addition to completing an approved program, all applicants must complete an approved registration examination. For Respiratory Therapists, the approved examination is the certification examination offered by the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists.

Registered practitioners are entitled to use the following titles and initials:

Registered Respiratory Therapist - R.R.T.
Registered Respiratory Technologist - R.R.T

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1988 490

Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board

1987 ..... -
1988 ..... -

Number of complaints processed

1987 1
1988 ..... -

REGISTERED NURSING ASSISTANTS

Nursing Assistants are practitioners who provide practical nursing care under the direction of a nurse or physician to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, institutions and other facilities.

Regulation

The designation of the discipline of Nursing Assistant received royal assent in November of 1983. A health discipline committee was established in September, 1984 and was responsible for the development of the Regulation for the health discipline. When the Regulation came into force on January 1, 1987, the Professional Council of Registered Nursing Assistants assumed responsibility for governing the discipline.

Training Programs and Examinations

At present, there are two approved nursing assistant certificate programs offered in the province. The approved registration examination is the Canadian Nurses Association Testing Service Examination for Nursing Assistants.

Registered practitioners are entitled to use the following titles and initials:
Registered Nursing Assistant - R.N.A.
Registered Nursing Orderly - R.N.O.

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1988 7,255

Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board

1987	-
1988	1

Number of complaints processed

1987	3
1988	5

PSYCHIATRIC NURSES

Psychiatric Nurses are practitioners who provide nursing care to emotionally and mentally ill patients.

Regulation

The designation of the discipline of Psychiatric Nurse received royal assent in September, 1986. The Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta has been appointed the governing body for the health discipline. A Regulation was drafted and came into force on January 1, 1988. At that time, the statute regulating psychiatric nurses, the **Psychiatric Nurses Training Act** was repealed.

Training Programs and Examinations

The Health Disciplines Board has approved two programs for Psychiatric Nurses offered in Alberta. In addition to completing an approved program, all applicants must complete the approved registration examination that is offered by the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta.

Registered practitioners are entitled to use the following titles and initials:
Registered Psychiatric Nurse - R.P.N.
Psychiatric Nurse - P.N.

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1988 1,130

Number of registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board

1987	-
1988	-

Number of complaints processed

1987	-
1988	2

HEARING AID PRACTITIONERS

Practitioners in this health discipline test client's hearing capacity and select, fit, dispense and repair hearing aids. The services of practitioners are used in industry for the purpose of determining the need for hearing protection and to provide and fit hearing protective earmolds when conditions warrant their use. Hearing aid practitioners work independently in private clinics and offices.

Regulation

The designation of Hearing Aid Practitioner received royal assent in November of 1984. To avoid confusion, the Health Disciplines Board required a name change from Alberta Hearing Aid Audiologist Association to Alberta Hearing Aid Practitioners Association. Upon recommendation, the Alberta Hearing Aid Practitioners Association assumed statutory governing responsibility for this discipline. A draft Regulation was prepared and in November, 1986 was circulated to stakeholder groups for review. The Regulation was approved and came into effect on March 1, 1988.

Training Programs and Examinations

There are no existing training programs approved by the Department of Advanced Education for Hearing Aid Practitioners. However, the Health Disciplines Board has approved the following training programs offered through the National Hearing Aid Society (U.S.A.) and Alberta College to fulfill the approved training requirements under the **Health Disciplines Act:**

- National Hearing Aid Society Correspondence Course
- Alberta College Audiology I
- Alberta College Audiology II Hearing Measurement
- At least two of Alberta College Audiology II
  - Hearing Aid Technology
  - Anatomy
  - Acoustics
  - Hearing Disorders and Management
- Studentship (Alberta College)

Registered practitioners use the title Hearing Aid Practitioner.

Registration Report

Number of registered members as of December 31, 1988 69

Number of registration reviews and appeals processed

1987 ..... -
1988 ..... -

Number of complaints processed

1987 ..... -
1988 ..... -